

Shoreview Press

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Restoring veterans' benefits should be a priority for us

We honor veterans this month as Americans continue to be under attack in Iraq, Kosovo, Afghanistan and other places around the world. They represent our country with integrity and dignity, they deserve our prayers to return home safely and be honored on their own Veteran's Day in the future.

Congress should be doing everything possible to assist our injured and disabled service men and women. Unfortunately, this is not the case.

Currently, our veterans who retire after a full military career are entitled to a pension. Those disabled while servicing are also entitled to receive compensation for their disability. But as veterans are well aware, their military retirement pension is reduced a dollar for every dollar of disability pay they receive. Many Minnesota veterans lose retirement benefits because of the Disabled Veterans Tax.

This system hurts America's disabled military retirees — those who have given so much for our nation. They earned their retirement and should be paid a full pension. Every dollar.

revolving
door

Sen. Betty
McCollum



Unfortunately, Congressional leaders disagree. A deal was cut to provide some disabled veterans only half of their deserved retirement, while many will continue to receive no help at all. Many in Congress are fighting to force a vote to grant full retirement and disability pay for years, neglecting its commitment to our country's veterans.

Americans agree that the disability penalty is an injustice to our veterans. Can we morally say that we have enough money to cut taxes for the wealthiest 1 percent, but not eliminate this tax on our disabled veterans?

Restoring the \$1.8 billion in veterans' health benefits that have been cut from the budget is a priority of mine. As a result, our veterans would benefit from an expansion of a number of job training, higher education and housing programs

that will address the needs of returning service men and women.

As we honor our veterans this month, and indeed every day, we should fully honor the promise we made to our veterans. Another way I will continue to do this is by fighting to eliminate the Disabled Veterans Tax.

America's veterans were there for us, wherever and whenever duty called. It is our turn to honor our commitment to our veterans for their hard work and dedication to this country.

Betty McCollum represents Minnesota's 4th Congressional District. She can be reached at 651-224-9191 or by e-mail at www.house.gov/mccollum/contact.html.